

PIGEONS GONE

Mystery About Disappearance of The Wild Bird.

No More Big Flocks Seen As In The Days of Yore.

One of the greatest of ornithological mysteries, and one that has never been solved, is the disappearance of the wild pigeon of North America, says a writer in the Detroit Free Press.

Michigan figured conspicuously in this great bird tragedy, because it was the nesting place of the pigeons and it was in this State that the last great flock was seen, passing suddenly and completely out of the sight of man, and only existing in memory.

The young people of to-day have no conception of the magnitude of the numbers of wild pigeons in Michigan. The flocks numbered millions. It was the same throughout the Northwest. Audubon and Wilson, the noted ornithologists, tell of the almost inconceivable numbers that they saw in the early part of the Nineteenth century in the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries. Audubon tells of having seen birds in such numbers in Kentucky that the noonday sun was obscured as if by an eclipse. This flight continued uninterrupted and in undiminished numbers for three days in succession. Audubon visited one Kentucky roost that was forty miles long and three miles wide.

So swift and complete has been the extinction that to-day not one out of 1,000 persons now in Michigan ever saw a wild pigeon.

The sight of the flight of the pigeons was a magnificent one. Nothing more beautiful was ever seen in bird life. The birds were the personification of grace and motion when in flight. They came in countless numbers, the flocks extending from horizon to horizon, one flock following close upon another. These were the halcyon days of hunting in Michigan, but, alas! were fated days for the pigeon.

The most noted migration in this State was the great flight of 1876. Late one afternoon, on a dismal March day, the pigeons began to arrive near Petoskey. The birds came in two bodies, one directly from the South by land, and the other following the east coast of Wisconsin until they reached the Manitou Islands, when this great army of birds changed its course and flew straight across Lake Michigan. This latter body came in from the lake just before dark. Those persons who saw it say that it was a compact mass fully six miles long and two miles wide. The first flock to arrive in the woods near Petoskey was almost as large.

With a foot of snow covering the ground in the woods where the sun could not reach it, but with the fields bare, this monstrous body of birds commenced to build their nests. Their nesting grounds were twenty-nine miles long and from three to five miles wide. From Petoskey for nine miles through hardwood timber, then across a river swamp, and then through twenty miles of white pine, did this throng of birds build their nests. The noise made by them was deafening, their combined clamor being heard for three miles. Their nesting covered 100,000 acres of land.

The nest of the pigeon consisted of a rickety platform of sticks. There was only one egg in a nest, rarely two. The eggs were white. The wild pigeon (ectopistes migratorius) is known as the passenger pigeon.

The birds remained for six weeks and during that time an army of 1,000 men waged a war of extermination against them. Each day 14,000 birds were shipped away by

rail and an equal number by water. Over 125,000 live birds were shipped by netters. Thousands of squabs died in their nest and thousands of wounded and old birds were left to die. The number of birds that were slaughtered can never be estimated. From that time the pigeon grew fewer in numbers, as large flocks.

BIG FLOCK IN 1883.

The last big flock came to Petoskey in the spring of 1883. A few isolated pairs stopped to nest in that section, but the great body crossed the straits of Mackinaw and disappeared in a great disappointment to the old time netters, who, concluding that the birds had returned to their haunts, got out their nets and made preparations for their slaughter. The pigeons never returned. The disappearance of the last great flock marked the passing of the pigeon.

What became of these pigeons? For twenty years this has been the subject of frequent controversy in the hunting and fishing magazines of the country and among ornithologists, and many are the reasons that have been assigned, but no conclusive evidence has ever been presented. It is still an unsolved mystery.

The American pigeon was found in no other country. Other lands have pigeons, but they differ greatly in symmetry plumage and size. His body was long and beautiful. It was built on speed lines and was one of the swiftest birds that flies. His tail was long and wedge shaped and his plumage beautiful to behold.

Notice to Contractors.

Bids will be received for the building of the joint High School for Christian Co., in the city of Hopkinsville, to be located on their lot in Hopkinsville, Ky., building to be as per plans and specifications furnished by Brinton B. Davis, Architect, Louisville, Ky. Plans can be seen at the office of Brinton B. Davis, Louisville, Ky., or Jno T. Waller's office, Supervising Architect, Hopkinsville, Ky. Sealed bids will be filed with J. E. McPherson, Sec'y, Hopkinsville, Ky., by noon August 15th, 1910.

Each bidder will be required to enclose a certified check with his bid for 5 per cent. of the amount of his bid. The committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A. M. HENRY, Chm High School Council, Hopkinsville, Ky.

MRS. MINNIE CURTIS

Died of a Hemorrhage Wednesday Night.

Mrs. Minnie Curtis, wife of Mr. Clifton Curtis, died of hemorrhage at her home near Beverly Wednesday night. She is survived by her husband and one child. The remains were interred in the Ledford burying ground, three miles west of Pee Dee, Thursday. The deceased was a niece of Mr. J. A. Ledford, of this city.

Trigg Leads List.

Trigg county has the largest school per capita of any county in the state, \$4.26 being set aside in that county for every school child. The state per capita has been fixed at \$4, but in some counties it is lower than that, owing to the fact that in some districts teachers are paid for fifty pupils, whereas there are actually only thirty more or less. In some counties, however, where the dog tax is collected and the schools derive additional revenue in other ways, the per capita is more than \$4. In Trigg county the dog tax has helped swell the total allowance for school purposes. Robertson county has the lowest per capita, with only \$3.67. Franklin county is below the \$4 mark, having only \$3.92. Schools in that county are credited with 167 less pupils than actually exist, on account of the arrangement of some of the districts.

See J. H. Dagg for contracting, building and general repair work of all kinds. Phone 476.

W. G. HAMILTON

Former Resident of Christian County Dies in Virginia.

Mr. W. G. Hamilton, a leading hotel man of Bristol, Va., died a few days ago. He was the father of Rev. William Wistar Hamilton, the noted Baptist preacher of Lynchburg, Va., who was born at what is now Gracey, Ky., in 1868. The family was closely related to Mr. J. T. Wall's family of this city. Mr. Hamilton died at Lynchburg, Va.

W. I. Swain Shows.

Commencing Monday night next and continuing throughout the week the much heralded and favorably known W. I. Swain Show Company will present a series of plays in an enormous tent with a seating capacity of upwards of 2,000 people. The show grounds are close to the entrance of the ball park and convenient to the city. The Swain shows are said to be the most complete equipment of anything of the kind in America. The company is booked solid for all the important Kentucky fairs this season as the official night attraction and the Swain band of solo musicians will be the musical feature of each fair during the days.

"The Arizona Cowboy" will be the initial offering Monday night, to be followed by a varied line of popular bills. Clean and artistic performances at a moderate price and on a scale never before attempted under canvas, have given this organization a unique prominence in the show world.

CHILDREN VICTIMS

A Couple of Sweet-Scented Gourdvines In Hoc.

Chas. Lusk, aged 40, is heavily guarded in the jail at Greenup, Ky., to prevent a possible lynching. He is accused of having assaulted Beulah Hamilton, 10 years old, a daughter of a citizen of Boyd county, where the mob is reported to be forming. Lusk, who was formerly a lawyer and known as a reformer in politics, is married and is the father of eight children, seven of them girls. The condition of the Hamilton child is critical.

Dr. J. T. Bishop, of Dekoven, Ky., is under arrest on the charge of attempting to assault the thirteen-year-old daughter of Jacob Sayers, a farmer. The assault is alleged to have taken place several days ago and a warrant was sworn out for the arrest of Dr. Bishop at Morganfield. Dr. Bishop strongly denies the charge. The examining trial of Dr. Bishop will be held before County Judge Lilly at Morganfield.

Secure a Certificate.

Under the law the Western Normal has the power to issue the ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATE, the INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE, and the LIFE CERTIFICATE, which entitle the holders to teach anywhere in Kentucky for two years, four years, and for life respectively without further examination. Information as to the amount of work required for each certificate will be furnished when desired. Fall session opens Sept. 6, 1910. Address H. H. Cherry, President, Western Normal, Bowling Green, Ky.

A Touch O' Sun

Holy smoke, but ain't it hot?
(Listen to the sleighbells jingle!)
Fairly melting on the spot.
(Tis so cold my ear tips tingle.)
Perspiration from each pore,
(Down the chute the coal doth rattle.)
Collar's wilted down once more,
(Let's go have a real snow battle.)
Not a bit of shade about.
(See the snowflakes gently falling.)
Hottest day without a doubt.
(Watch the children there snowballing.)

LOT SALE

"Twin Auctioneers" Will be Here And Cry the Sale.

McPherson—Fowler—Hanbery Addition At Auction Aug. 2.

On next Tuesday, Aug. 2, Messrs. McPherson, Fowler and Hanbery will have a closing out sale at auction of fifty lots which they own on the West Side. The lots are situated on West Seventh street, McPherson avenue, Fowler avenue and Kentucky avenue and all of them are valuable building lots, being near the West-side school and in a section of the city that is growing rapidly.

The Carolina Development Co., will conduct the sale, the "twin auctioneers" who officiated at the sale of the Hopper property a few weeks ago, having been engaged to cry the property.

The lots will be sold to the highest bidder, without reserve and there will be no by-bidding.

An excellent opportunity will be afforded those who desire to invest in real estate here, as this property will soon advance, and the sale promises to be a success in all respects.

Purely Personal

H. M. Frankel and family left this morning for Savannah, Ga., from which place they will go by steamer to New York, to be absent several weeks.

Miss Mary Clark is visiting in Birmingham, Ala.

Mrs. T. W. Blakey, Mrs. Sarah Blakey and Churchill Blakey have returned from Winona.

Misses Mary and Ivy Mitchell, of Hopkinsville, and Miss Hallie May Dillman, of near Pembroke, are spending a few days with Misses Myrtle and Letrice Mitchell.—Cadiz Record.

Mrs. Clark Thompson and children, of Memphis, Tenn., are visiting Mrs. E. W. Henderson.

Misses Mattie Crenshaw, Evelyn Smith and Ruth Fritz left yesterday for a two weeks' visit to Misses Rebecca Smith and Mary Kennedy, at Paducah.

Mrs. Carl Deitrich, of Berwick, Pa., is the guest of her mother, Mrs. Annie Garnett. Misses Flossie Lee Griffith, of Louisville, and Alice Radford, of Hopkinsville, are the guests of Miss Janie Garrett. Rush C. Watkins and family, of Louisville, arrived in the city Wednesday, and will spend some time at Salubria Springs. They made the trip in their automobile.—Pembroke Journal.

Dr. and Mrs. A. T. McCarmack, Bowling Green, attended the funeral of Mr. W. S. Moore, yesterday.

Mr. W. A. Wilgus spent Thursday at the Henderson fair looking after prospective tourists for his great summer trip Aug. 11. Several from Henderson will probably accompany the party.

Notice to Public.

The firm of Harrison & Ennis has dissolved partnership and H. M. Harrison has assumed all debts and will continue the work of the firm in his own name.

Important to all Postmasters

Order of the Postmaster General.

Sender's Return Receipt for Registered Mail.

Office of the Postmaster General, Washington, July 11, 1910.

Order No. 3276.

Section 3928 of the revised Statutes (855 P.L. & R.) has been amended to read as follows:

"Whenever the sender shall so request, a receipt shall be taken on the delivery of any registered mail matter, showing to whom and when the same was delivered, which receipt shall be returned to the sender, and be received in courts as prima facie evidence of such delivery."

In accordance with this amendment postmasters should not hereafter prepare receipt cards for return to the senders of domestic registered letters or parcels that do not bear the indorsement "Receipt desired" or words of similar import. When an article bearing such an indorsement is received for registration, the registration receipt issued to the sender and the registration record shall be similarly indorsed.

If no return-receipt card accompanies a domestic registered letter or

ceipt desired," or words of similar import, the postmaster at the delivering office shall supply one.

Sections 811, 852 and 855 of the Postal Laws and Regulations are hereby amended accordingly.

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Postmaster General.

Registry Return Receipt to be Furnished Only When Requested by the Sender.

Office of Third Assistant P. M. Gen. Washington, July 12, 1910.

To All Postmasters:

Attention is directed to the foregoing amendment to the Postal Laws and Regulations providing for registry return receipts only when requested by the sender. The amended regulations cover all registered mail, including official matter mailed by Government officers.

Until further notice postal employees accepting mail for registration must in every case ask if a return receipt is desired, and if a person desiring a return receipt has failed to make the proper indorsement on the mail, the receiving postmaster or clerk should supply it.

If a domestic registered article that does not bear the indorsement "Receipt desired," or words of similar import, is accompanied by a properly addressed return-receipt card, a receipt should be obtained thereon and the card should be mailed to the sender in the usual manner.

No return-receipt card should be prepared for a domestic registered article not indorsed "Receipt desired" or with words of similar import. A. M. TRAVERS,
Acting Third Asst. P. M. Gen.

Here and There.

Mrs. Fannie W. Ragon, of Cadiz, died at the home of her nephew, Jno. W. Cowherd, Monday, aged 82 years. She was a sister of Mr. B. W. Cowherd, of Pee Dee, in this county.

Miss Lida Wilkinson, of this city, has been selected by the State president of the Eastern Star to deliver the address of grand representatives at the State meeting of the Eastern Star in Frankfort next October. This is quite an honor most worthily bestowed, and has been accepted by Miss Wilkinson.—Cadiz Record.

In winter it's a cold. In summer it's bowel complaint. Be good to your poor old stomach these hot days. Don't ask it to assimilate raw, rank, nondescript whiskies. Give it good, pure, gentle old I. W. Harper. For sale by W. R. Long, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Clyde Lucas was arrested Thursday, on the Kirkmansville road, on a warrant sworn out by Myrtle Moore, charging him with a serious crime. He gave bond and was released.

Mrs. Leta Dozier, who was shot at Louisville by her husband, James R. Dozier, who then shot himself, died at the City Hospital, only a few minutes before her husband passed away. They were from Nashville and letters found showed that the woman was preparing to go away with a man in Birmingham, Ala.

John M. Mitchell, colored, Collector of Customs at Yorktown, Va., for over forty years, died Tuesday. He was appointed to office by President Grant.

The Henderson fair is in progress this week with a fine line of exhibits and favorable conditions, barring the heat.

Course in Agriculture.

The Western Kentucky State Normal School offers a practical course of study in Elementary Agriculture, demonstration and actual work done on school farm. Teachers will have an opportunity to prepare for teaching the subject. Great opportunities offered young men who expect to make farming a life work. Course begins Sept. 6, 1910. Write for information. Address H. H. Cherry, President, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

COLORED INSTITUTE

Adjourned After a Meeting of Several Days.

The Christian County Institute for colored teachers, which has been in progress all this week, at the Virginia Street Baptist church, will conclude its sessions to-day. Prof. F. L. Williams, of St. Louis, who conducted the institute, delivered a lecture at the church Thursday night, at which a program of music

CHURCH CONTRACT

At Cadiz Goes To Forbes Manufacturing Co.

Mr. Dan Grinter, of Cadiz, was in town Thursday and closed a contract with the Forbes Mfg. Co. to rebuild the Christian church building in Cadiz, which was wrecked a month ago by the explosion of an acetylene gas lighting plant. The damage amounted to about \$4,000, and only \$500 of fire insurance was collected.

W. I. SWAIN COMPANY

--BIG CROWD AND A GOOD SHOW.

The Florence, Colo., Daily Tribune has the following to say of the W. I. Swain Show Co., which is to appear here under canvas for one week beginning Aug. 1:

The W. I. Swain company traveling in two magnificent private Pullman cars of their own and using a day coach belonging to the railroad, arrived in Florence Wednesday morning over the Santa Fe. It is truthfully said that the W. I. Swain company is the best equipped show of its kind in America, however, it should be added also that they give the best show of its kind. The Swain company was very popular in Florence since their engagement here last season, and the splendid show they gave last night, to a packed tent of over twelve hundred people cinched their popularity, until now they will be christened the best that is. The big tent is so well equipped with comfortable seats, big stage, plenty of bright scenery, well lighted, etc., etc, that it is possible to do justice to any production they now attempt. The cast included such well known performers as Mr. McOwen, Mr. Col. Jack Taylor, Mr. Lew Davenport, Mr. Simmons, a full blood Yaqui Indian of Old Mexico, and the well known comedian, Mr. Menkemeller.

The ladies of the cast which includes Miss Kerns, Miss Emma Francis and Miss Hasson, rendering their parts excellently and especially Miss Hasson, whom we remember so well from last season.

The big audience seemed to understand they were to have a good show and encored at every opportunity from the beginning to the fall of the curtain on the last act. Mr. Swain had a good show last season and seems to grow better with age as his show is simply excellent this year. Come again Brother Swain, Florence will always welcome you and your excellent troupe.

Made Deaf by Rice.

Olive B. Kelly will remember for some time the concluding incidents of his marriage on Sunday evening. After the ceremony that made him and Miss Mary Coates man and wife they boarded the southbound electric car, and as they stepped on the car a handful of rice struck Mr. Kelly on the side of the face and a grain or two found its way into his ear. Upon reaching Sacramento he was so deaf he could hear nothing from that ear. He consulted a physician, and after the application of the X-ray the grain was found lodged near the ear-drum. An operation was necessary to remove the obstacle and his hearing has been restored.—Sacramento Bee.

Just Good Cooking

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W. A. WILGUS, Tourist Agent, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Remember the Date—August 11th